

Lana Gordon, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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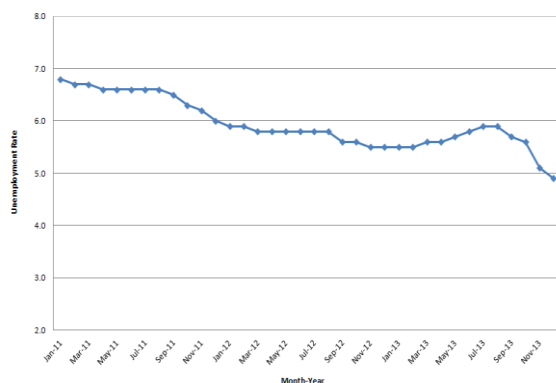
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Labor Market Report December 2013

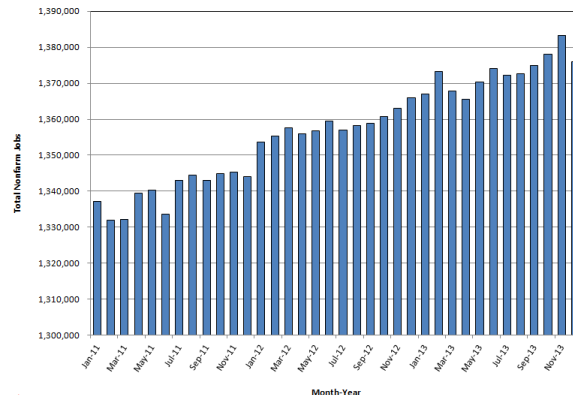
TOPEKA, Kan. – The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) reported the December seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9 percent, down from 5.1 percent in November and down from 5.5 percent in December 2012.

Kansas gained 10,100 seasonally adjusted private sector jobs, an increase of 0.9 percent since last December, and 10,000 nonfarm jobs, a 0.7 percent increase. Since last month, Kansas lost 5,500 private sector jobs and 7,400 nonfarm jobs, both decreasing 0.5 percent.

**Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted)
Kansas
January 2011 to December 2013**



**Kansas Nonfarm Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)
Kansas
January 2011 to December 2013**



“The state’s unemployment rate continued its descent, dropping below 5 percent for the first time since 2008,” said Lana Gordon, Secretary of Labor. “For the second consecutive year, Kansas saw over the year growth of more than 10,000 jobs. This is all good news for Kansans.”

Not seasonally adjusted figures show Kansas gained 10,100 private sector and 10,000 nonfarm jobs since December 2012, or 0.9 and 0.7 percent respectively. Since last month, Kansas lost 8,400 nonfarm and 6,300 private sector jobs, both had a decrease of 0.6 percent.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.5 percent, up from 4.4 percent in November and down from 5.2 percent in December 2012.

Three of the 11 major industries in Kansas reported improvements over the month. Increases were greatest in trade, transportation and utilities, which added 500 jobs. Financial activities gained 400, all in finance and insurance, and mining and logging increased 100.

Seven major industries reported statewide over the month job losses. These were greatest in construction and leisure and hospitality, both down 2,400 jobs, or 4.3 and 2.0 percent respectively, with both showing losses throughout their sector. Government lost 2,100 jobs which were primarily at the state level.

Nine of the 11 major industries in Kansas reported growth over the last 12 months. Gains were greatest in professional and business services, adding 3,900 jobs mostly in professional, scientific and technical services. Financial activities increased 2,800 jobs with the majority of the increase in finance and insurance. Education and health services increased 1,400 jobs spread throughout the sector.

Two major industries reported statewide over the year job losses. These were in trade, transportation and utilities, losing 800 jobs, and government, down 100 jobs.

“Over the year, professional and business services, financial activities, and the education and health services industries accounted for about 81 percent of the 10,000 nonfarm jobs gained. We observed consistently positive over-the-year gains in nonfarm employment in these industries throughout 2013,” said Efua Afful, Labor Economist.

There were 19,749 initial claims for unemployment benefits in December 2013, up from 12,914 initial claims in November 2013 and down from 20,353 one year ago. There were 124,370 continued claims in December 2013, up from 89,654 the previous month and down from 163,201 in December 2012. These numbers include all available programs.

The federally funded Emergency Unemployment Compensation program (EUC) expired after the week ending December 28, 2013.

Kansas labor market information for December is available [here](#).

Additional information on procedures for producing Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates is available on the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website [here](#).

PLEASE NOTE: The January Labor Report will be released on Monday, March 17.

Audio clips of the Labor Market Report quotes by Secretary Lana Gordon and Labor Economist Efua Afful are available online courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.

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